

Name: **Red Creek WY-030-26N96W33-2012**

**FORM 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

No   X   Yes                      (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source:                     NA                    

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):                     NA                    

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):                     NA                    

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s):                     NA                    

**2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:**

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source:

## **FORM 2**

### **Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

a. Area Number/Name: **Red Creek WY-030-26N96W33-2012** Acreage: **15946.66 acres**

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☐ X ☒ No ☐

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the north, south, and west by the Rawlins Field Office Boundary. The unit is bound on the east by BLM Road 3219, a Class 3 undivided road.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include acreage, land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of the major human uses/activities)

The Red Creek unit under consideration is 15946.66 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t25n	r97w	24	t26n	r98w	26
t25n	r97w	13	t26n	r98w	27
t25n	r97w	14	t26n	r98w	28
t25n	r97w	15	t26n	r98w	29
t25n	r97w	11	t26n	r97w	21
t25n	r97w	10	t26n	r97w	20
t25n	r97w	9	t26n	r97w	19
t25n	r97w	8	t26n	r98w	24
t25n	r97w	7	t26n	r98w	23
t25n	r97w	3	t26n	r97w	16
t25n	r97w	4	t26n	r98w	22
t25n	r97w	5	t26n	r98w	21
t25n	r97w	6	t26n	r98w	20
t26n	r97w	34	t26n	r98w	17
t26n	r97w	33	t26n	r97w	17
t26n	r97w	32	t26n	r97w	18
t26n	r97w	31	t26n	r98w	17
t26n	r98w	36	t26n	r98w	13
t26n	r97w	28	t26n	r98w	14

t26n	r97w	29	t26n	r98w	15
t26n	r97w	30	t26n	r98w	16
t26n	r98w	25			

The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by runoff from Cyclone Rim. Elevation ranges from, approximately, 6,800 feet on the hilltops above the drainages to 6,600 feet at the bottom of the drainages at Eagles Nest Draw, Red Creek, and Lost Creek. The dominant vegetation cover is mountain big sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is livestock grazing. Among range improvements, fences occur throughout the area as well as 3 reservoirs, and 2 water wells. The area has 25 oil and gas wells. The area also contains a number of primitive routes accessible only by 4wd vehicles. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 32.98 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 33.19 miles of wilderness inventory roads (i.e., well access roads) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in photos 3, 7-10, and 22. When hiking across the Red Creek Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains one oil and gas well and a reclaimed pipeline within the Red Creek Unit (see examples of pipeline in Photos 5-6 and 21). When examining the status of the oil and gas well, this well was found to be permanently abandoned in 1995. Since final reclamation has been well established for the well and the pipeline, these intrusions would not be substantially noticeable to the casual Wyoming observer and would not be considered to detract from the naturalness of the unit.

The Red Creek Unit also contains two man-made reservoirs (see location in unit map and examples in photos 11-13 and 24). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at the any of the reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The

range improvements, including two reservoirs, three fences, and one water well, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of multiple grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Red Creek Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

**A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

## Summary of Analysis

**Area Name and/or Number: Red Creek WY-030-26N96W33-2012**

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

\_\_\_X\_\_\_ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by: Christopher D. Jones**

Team members:

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**Reviewed by:**

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Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_